Michigan Department of Corrections



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MDOC JOINS COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO STOP CYBER CRIME

Three parole/probation agents from the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) are the newest members of the state's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, a law enforcement initiative focused on the investigation of online child exploitation. Michigan is the first ICAC Task Force in the nation to include corrections personnel.

Greg Straub, a Lead Agent in the Office of Parole and Probation Services, played a vital role in facilitating the collaboration. Greg has been instrumental in many initiatives involving sex offenders and this program is another way that the MDOC can monitor offenders who may be likely to prey on children through the Internet or other electronic means. Destinie Shipman, a manager in the office, acknowledged that this initiative would not have been possible without Greg's hard work.

"We are pleased to partner with the Michigan State Police and other law enforcement agencies in this effort. Utilizing all available resources and sharing those resources to protect our children is vital," said Patricia L. Caruso, Director of the MDOC. "These parole and probation agents are another brick in the wall that helps shield our vulnerable children from Internet predators, and we are proud to be part of this task force."



The Michigan ICAC Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional team coordinated by the MSP Computer Crimes Unit with offices in Grand Rapids, Lansing and Livonia. MDOC parole/probation agents will work from those offices and utilize high-tech, law enforcement tools to identify parolees violating their conditions of release. Although contrary to the conditions of their parole, many offenders convicted

of crimes against children gain access to social networking Web sites and chat rooms to view child sexually explicit materials and/or meet new victims.

"The MDOC agents add a new dimension to our efforts to combat the widespread problem of online child exploitation," said Colonel Peter C. Munoz, Director of the Michigan State Police (MSP). "Leveraging the expertise available within the Michigan Department of Corrections with our own investigative resources will go a long way in keeping our children safe."

The ICAC program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, allocates funding for training and equipment to 61 task forces nationwide.

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HARVEST GATHERINGS AND PUMPKINS **DEFINE OCTOBER**

Each year, correctional facilities and offices throughout the Michigan Department of Corrections join forces in donating funds and food to those in need. This year was no exception.

The Jackson County Probation Office collected over 75 pounds of food for their local food bank including tuna, peanut butter, muffin mix, canned goods, boxed dinners, and toiletries. Tonia Rice coordinated the event.



Thumb Correctional Facility (TCF) collected over 460 pounds of food and over \$1,000 from cash and silent auction donations. The net effect for their local food bank will be an influx of thousands of dollars in food items and

some relief with rising food transportation



Parr Highway Correctional Facility grew more massive pumpkins this year. One was 717 pounds and the other was 648 pounds. Prisoners and horticulture program staff start with several seeds and

narrow the field down to the best of the crop. The largest in this year's crop is 6 pounds bigger than last year's ATF record-setter.

Prisoners at Camp Kitwen (CKT) grew over 220 pumpkins that were donated to local schools and local charities. Their donations touched the lives of many children and senior-citizens who otherwise might not have had a pumpkin of their own this season.







CLEANSWEEP SUCCESSFUL AT KTF

Officer recruits from the MacMeekin Class joined forces with the staff of Straits Correctional Facility (KTF) and Chippewa Correctional Facility (URF) for an "Operation Cleansweep" on October 21, 2008. The operation is a collaborative effort between training academy staff, officer recruits, Correctional Facilities Administration (CFA), and a targeted correctional facility. The goal of the operation is to conduct a complete and thorough search of the facility in order to reduce and eliminate contraband.

Officer recruits are especially helpful because they have the numbers, in this case 43 people, to flood an area and complete a search using newly trained academy search standards. The recruits are directed and assisted by facility staff who know the facility and can help root out contraband in areas unfamiliar to the officer recruits.

Kinross ERT Commander Jeff Wilcox organized the effort in coordination with CFA and New Employee Training Manager Craig Czinder. Warden Greg McQuiggin as well as the deputy warden and several assistant deputy wardens were onsite to assist with the coordination of the search.

Officer recruits and facility staff found several contraband items including some dangerous contraband, making this "Cleansweep" another successful initiative.

HALLOWEEN SHOULD BE FUN AND SAFE

Halloween comes on a Friday this year, making it potentially one of the most dangerous days of the year. The combination of Halloween parties and children in the streets has turned deadly in the past. The increased potential for intoxicated motorists to encounter costumed pedestrians could have disastrous consequences. If you plan to be out this Halloween night, whether it be

partying with friends or escorting the little ones through the neighborhood, you can take some steps to make the night safer:

- Don't drink and drive. If you choose to drink, get a designated driver.
- Limit driving during designated "trick or treat" hours, especially in busy suburban neighborhoods. Most cities and towns have a standard time for the activity, generally between 6-8 p.m. Stay off the streets during that time.
- If you have to be out driving, slow down. Kids will dart across the street without a second glance as soon as they hear the Henderson house is giving away full-size Snickers bars again this year. Slowing down gives you greater reaction times and shortens stopping distances.

If you are dragging your costumed child through the streets this Halloween to satisfy your own sugar craving, make sure you do it safely:

- Ensure that everyone wears highly visible clothing with reflective tape or cloth. It should not restrict their vision. Add a glow stick around their neck and carry a flashlight too.
- Trick or treat in well-lighted neighborhoods with sidewalks. This limits the amount of time kids spend in the road and greatly reduces the chances they will encounter drunk or distracted drivers.
- Know your neighbors. Some municipalities take special precautions to ensure that children don't become victims of child predators. You can be prepared by doing a little research limiting your child's exposure to those who have committed crimes against children. Check http://www.familywatchdog.us for information on offenders who have a history of criminal activity against children.

Get out and enjoy Halloween this year, but keep it safe for everyone.



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GET OUT AND VOTE

We are civil servants, and as such, we are a vital part of government. No matter what your party affiliation is, or what your political views are, we live in a representative democracy

where your voice, and your vote, count. Because this appears to be one of the most closely watched and, to many, most historic elections in U.S. history, voter turnout is expected to be very heavy. The American

people will wake up on November 5, and have, for the first time in history, either an African American President or a female Vice-President. Don't miss out on being part of history in the making. On Tuesday, November 4, 2008, get out and vote.

HONOR GUARD FUND-RAISER SET FOR DECEMBER 5, 2008



The Michigan Department of Corrections Honor Guard is having a fund-raising dinner and silent auction at the West Lansing Conference Center (former Holiday Inn West) on December 5, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. until 11 p.m.

Cost is \$35 per person, and includes dinner, a short awards banquet and a DJ. Proceeds go directly to supporting Honor Guard operations and fallen staff at the state and local level. All current and former members and any supporters of the Honor Guard are invited to attend. Please contact Lindsay Simmon at simmonls@michigan.gov or call 517-335-1407 to RSVP or for more information.

LMF AND CCU RAISE \$2200 FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The staff members at Alger Maximum Correctional Facility and Camp Cusino conducted fund-raisers throughout this past year to benefit Special Olympics. Casual days, a silent auction, and the sale of raffle tickets, hats, and t-shirts combined with a July 28, 2008 "Sundaes on Monday" ice cream social fund-raiser totaled \$1456.50.

The Annual Bake Sale and Auction organized by the Business Office was held on September 18, 2008. Staff members from all areas donated baked goods and items for auction. This event raised \$365.65.

Four of our staff members ran with the Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run on September 9, 2008. Jack Luukkonen, Patty Belfry, Dawn Castello, and Valerie Killips raised \$327 for their efforts.

Finally, the 3rd Annual Special Olympics Law Enforcement Softball Game was held on September 28, 2008. Staff from Alger Correctional Facility and Camp Cusino challenged staff from local law enforcement agencies. This event was organized by Keena Jones, Jennifer Nayback, and Heidi Swajanen and raised \$95.

In 2008, the two facilities raised over \$2200 to benefit Special Olympics. All of the staff are very proud of their effort and look forward to next year's fund-raising campaign.





QUITTER'S CORNER



Rosanne Leland, MDOC's Work/ Life Services Coordinator, recently interviewed Officer Karen Kimble of Florence Crane Correctional Facility (ACF):

F.Y.I.: When did you go tobacco free?

Kimble: "I stopped smoking in 1998. "I started smoking at age

16. By age 18 I was smoking 1½ packs a day!"

F.Y.L.: How long did you use tobacco products? **Kimble:** "I smoked for seven years."

F.Y.I.: Why did you go tobacco free?

Kimble: "I was out of breath at age 23. My little boy would pretend to smoke with a crayon or a pencil and this really bothered me. My fiancé and I both stopped smoking at the same time and we took the money that we would have spent of cigarettes and saved it. We made a deal with each other that we would buy a boat with the money. We bought a boat, and it was a good incentive for both of us!"

F.Y.L.: What situations were most difficult for you to stop smoking?

Kimble: "Driving in a car, when someone else lit up, and after I ate were all difficult times for me."

F.Y.I.: What/who helped you guit?

Kimble: "My fiancé and my children are my reason."

F.Y.I.: Who are/were your support systems? **Kimble:** "My fiancé and my father are great support for me."

F.Y.L.: What has your life been like since you stopped smoking?

Kimble: "I felt more like an outsider smoking; now I feel like I fit in. Food tastes better. I am not as winded, and I no longer cough."

F.Y.I.: What is a message for your co-workers who are trying to quit?

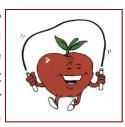
Kimble: "If it is something you really want to do, you have to put your mind to it. People sometimes make excuses that smoking is a physical addiction. It is more mental than physical. YOU CAN QUIT!"

FOR THE HEALTH OF IT: WHEN WILL YOU CHANGE?

For many Americans, healthy living is a goal, but not a reality. We live in a fast-paced, fast-food society where it is difficult to stop and eat nutritious meals; where we cannot devote 1/2 hour to 1 hour per day to exercise; and where many of us are sedentary for much of the work day.

This lifestyle has lead Americans to be one of the most unhealthy industrialized nations on the planet. Obesity is soaring among adults and children. Physical exercise is declining. The risk of heart disease, diabetes, certain cancers, and strokes is no longer declining. By many health standards, we are an unhealthy nation.

Eating right and exercise takes effort, something we spend on many different aspects of our life that we value more. But without our health, we cannot enjoy, or even participate in the things we consider valuable.



The Centers of Disease Control has a great Web site on healthy living. The site provides information on a wide range of subjects that will suit almost everyone, from aging to prevention, healthy eating to exercise, there are tips for becoming healthier.

When do you make the choice to value health? Do you make it before your health fails? Do you make the choice after a health scare? Do you make it when you can finally no longer do what you enjoy because your health has declined? Why wait for your health to fail. Make the choice now to become a healthier person.

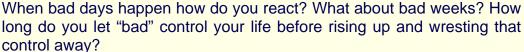
Visit <u>www.cdc.org/healthyliving</u> for more information on becoming healthier.





A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

BY JOHN C. CORDELL





For so many of us, life clicks along fairly normally until we feel forced to react to something that evokes resentful, sad, angry, disenchanted, or apathetic feelings. It could be any number of things that cause a stressful reaction, from a death in the family, to your child getting in trouble at school. Maybe you are forced to become the primary caregiver to an ailing mom or dad. Maybe some aspect of life simply didn't play out the way you dreamed it would. What do you do then?

Some of us obsess on it. We allow the issue to control us. We lose track of what we value most. We become negative, cynical, and withdrawn. We forget that we control ourselves and our reactions to what life brings.

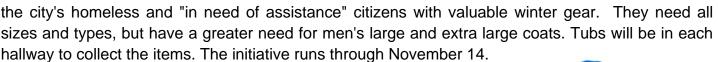
But we can choose a different road, a different reaction. We can choose to control our responses to life's roadblocks and potholes. We can steer our life in a positive direction that makes the best out of difficult situations while enhancing the lives of those we care about in a positive way.

People who succeed in spite of life's pile-ups realize that they can't do it alone. They need a support system of like-minded positive people who are there for them. They understand when to lean on those people and when to give up control to those around them so that they can focus their energy on what needs to be done in order to get through the tough times.

Next time you hit one of life's potholes, how will you react?

CENTRAL OFFICE COLLECTS COATS, HATS, AND MITTENS

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) Central Office is collecting coats, hats, and mittens for the Lansing City Mission again this year. The Mission is always in need of new and "gently used" winter coats, hats, gloves, mittens, and other outer-gear to help those in need make it through the winter. The Lansing City Mission has been a major force in providing



Correctional facilities and field operations offices throughout the state also participate in similar initiatives to help the homeless and others in their communities who are in need. Find out what your local agency needs and see how you can help today!









PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



RECORDS OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR RECEIVES PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Sandra Grant, Manager of the Michigan Department of Corrections Record Office Administration, recently received a Professional Excellence award for her dedication to the office, and recent transition of services from Lansing to Jackson. Ms. Grant is devoted to her staff and dedicated to providing the highest level of service to both the MDOC and others who may need assistance.

Pictured from L to R: Sandra Grant receives a Professional Excellence Award from Operations Manager Edward Mize.



OFFICERS SAVE A LIFE

Regional Prison Administrator Ray Wolfe presented Lifesaving awards to Sergeant Todd Simon and Corrections Officer Jamie Burch on July 30, 2008 at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility.

On March 14, 2007, Burch and Simon observed a prisoner in the dining room suddenly become distressed. They appropriately assessed the scene, determined the prisoner was choking, and immediately attempted the Heimlich maneuver. Given the prisoner's size, this action did not resolve the situation, so they performed secondary lifesaving techniques which were effective. The prisoner was examined by Health Care staff and subsequently returned to his housing unit.



From L to R: Deputy Warden Cathy Stoddard, Jamie Burch, Todd Simon, Warden Ken McKee, and Region II RPA Ray Wolfe.

HURON VALLEY STAFF SAVE FELLOW EMPLOYEE'S LIFE

On August 23, 2008, Registered Nurse (RN) Mary Slabaugh noticed that another nurse, RN Mary Baron had not reported for her shift, so she telephoned her. When RN Baron finally answered, she was confused and disoriented. Nurse Slabaugh called Nurse Tess Belog to keep Baron talking on the phone while Slabaugh called the facility control center. Officer Scott Carroll came to the Health Care phone and tried talking with Baron. Together, staff determined that they were dealing with a medical emergency. Officer Carroll called Ann Arbor police while the nurses kept Baron on the line.

See LIFESAVERS on page 8







PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



CORRECTIONS OFFICERS EARN LIFESAVING AND VALOR AWARDS

Three Marquette Branch Prison employees were recently recognized by Director Patricia L.Caruso for their outstanding demonstrations of dedication and professionalism. The awards were presented by Region I RPA Jeri-Ann Sherry on August 13, 2008 to Officers Anthony Laurin, Paul Couture, and Shawn Hennings.

Officer Laurin received the Department's Valor Award. On March 24, 2008, while a coworker was securing prisoners in their cells after showers, Laurin noticed one of the prisoners was agitated and arguing about entering his cell. The prisoner began assaulting the coworker, striking her in the head, knocking her to the floor, and then kicking, punching and choking her. Without hesitation, Laurin brought the prisoner to the floor and restrained him until additional help arrived.

Officer Couture also received the Department's Valor Award. On February 3, 2007 officer Couture responded to an alarm in the clinic and found a nurse being assaulted by a prisoner. Officer Couture controlled the prisoner, called for assistance and EMS, and continued to struggle with the prisoner until additional staff arrived. The prisoner was found to have had a razor in his possession and had threatened to rape and kill the nurse.



Pictured L to R: Officer Shawn Hennings, Officer Anthony Laurin, Officer Paul Couture, and Regional Prison Administrator Jeri-Ann Sherry.

Officer Hennings received the Department's Lifesaving Award. On April 22, 2008, while monitoring prisoners in the

dining room, Hennings observed a prisoner suddenly put his hands to his throat, stand up and back away from the table. Hennings immediately responded and determined the prisoner was choking. He administered abdominal thrusts to the prisoner several times until the object was dislodged.

LIFESAVERS, from page 7

The police went to Baron's home to check her welfare and an ambulance was dispatched. She was transported to University of Michigan Hospital, where she was admitted. "The quick thinking of the WHV staff made the difference for our nurse," said Inspector Carl Tabb. The sentiment was echoed by A/Deputy Warden Lucielle Evans, who noted, "We are all proud of the way WHV employees consistently work together. Through the combined efforts of our corrections employees and the local police, this incident had a positive outcome."

